TRACER

McHENRY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

AN ILLINOIS CORPORATION (not for profit)

6422 Main Street, Union, Illinois 60180

Telephone: 815-923-2267

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VOLUME V - No. 1 Newsletter SUMMER, 1978

This has, indeed, been a very busy quarter. Besides the annual meeting in June, on the second Sunday the historical society has had many Sunday programs, and has had more publicity than in any similar length of time since its inception. We shall consider these events one at a time.

First, the annual meeting, a highlight of the organization's year. The president, Dorothy McEachren, called the assemblage to order and welcomed all those present. In her brief report she told of the plans to bring the restored log cabin from the county fairgrounds to the museum or the museum grounds, and also told the members of plans to hire a curator-administrator.

At the election of the board of directors these people were returned to office: Alice Bailey, Hebron; Gwendolyn Danner, Harvard; Nancy Fike, McHenry; Don Hildebrand, Union; Shuji Kimura, Crystal Lake; Henry Marlowe, Huntley Dorothy McEachren, Woodstock; Thresile Mulvenna, Harvard; Dorothy Northrop, Union; Avis Pankonin, Alden. Directors elected for the first time were: Nancy Petzelt of Algonquin and Clara Vogel of Greenwood.

Also during the business meeting, Van Sells, McHenry County director of the RTA, presented to the museum set number one of the historic county sites pictures drawn by the local artist, Jim Pearson. Of the five hundred sets numbered by Mr. Pearson, the others will be on sale at the museum. Each set contains four sketches.

Following the business meeting, Mrs. Dorothy Mastricola of the Time Museum at Rockford showed slides of the Time museum clocks. Concluding this portion of the day was the drawing of the winning ticket for the beautiful, handmade shawl, made by Ramona Martin, director from Cary. It was won by Alice Ross of Crystal Lake.

SUMMER PROGRAMS

The Sunday programs started off with a most successful presentation on May seventh with Huntley Day. Directors Pat Williams and Henry Marlowe collaborated on this, and enlisted many other Huntley people to help. The result made for an outstanding program. No program was planned for Mother's Day but on May twenty-first, Don Hildebrand, a director from Union persuaded several businessmen to underwrite the Hiawatha Dancers from Elgin. It was a bright, sunny day and the rather large turn-out enjoyed the outstanding performance of these performers of genuine Indian dancers. A month later Girl Scout Day brought out many past and present scouts to look at the exhibits especially planned for them. The next two Sundays were given over to pioneer demonstrations with the one on July ninth being also termed Alden Day, and bringing out many people from that town. All present had much to say about the washing demonstration on the second and the butter and soap making July ninth. Alice and Frances Bailey showed artifacts and family heirlooms on Hebron day, July sixteenth and on July thirtieth Mrs. Mary Walker presented a demonstration of the proper and old-fashioned system of drying flowers for McHenry Day. Everyone who participated in the programs was impressed by the interest of the audience, and certainly attendance at the museum greatly increased. The programs are to be resumed after a late summer rest, and will continue through September and October.

PUBLICITY

Besides the undoubted interest the programs generated, there was another reason for their success in bringing people to the museum. This was the excellent publicity on them sent out by Director Nancy Fike. The pictures and the stories beforehand let people know what was going on, and the follow-up stories made the county aware of what was going on. This, with the word-of-mouth advertising we got from people who attended, has kept the number of Sunday visitors increasing. The acceptance by the county papers of all materials sent them is something else the historical society appreciates.

NEW COLUMN

Also in the line of publicity is the "Have You Seen?" column, planned to be sent out irregularly to all the county's newspapers. Too many people - even too many members - are unaware of what treats there are in store for them when they visit the museum. This column is designed to pick out the items that might interest various people. So far they have dealt with the county sheet music in the music room, and the toys that attract the children who come and find there really is something of interest for them, too. Future ones will deal with other artifacts. We have over eleven thousand separate items.

BOARD MEETINGS

Although any member of the McHenry County Historical Society may attend board meetings, three or four guests per meeting is the usual number. Yet this is where the backbone of the work of the society is done, and I thought you might be interested in some bits and pieces of what has been done at these meetings. It has been there that officers for the board are elected and have resigned. Ann Rademaker's resignation as secretary was tendered at the May session, and also that month President McEachren reported that Ruth Cripe, who had done such fabulous work on finances, said she must resign because of ill health. The board voted to ask bids for reroofing Eckert Hall, received them, and let the job, all this in the course of several meetings. Also, over a period of some months, the possibility of turning the museum over to the the county government in exchange for that government levying a tax to support the building. After hearing all sides of the question, it was agreed to table the whole thing for the present. The board also decided to hire a curator-administrator as Mrs. McEachren reported at

the annual meeting. A large number of names were obtained and Nancy Fike agreed to send letters to all. Later the answers were considered at a monthly session, and, beginning in September, Mark Higget of Crystal Lake will take over that task. These are some of the larger decisions your board has made. Minor reports bring up the fact that the 1840 census has not been returned and that the Harvard Area 1829-1976, a book of Harvard history presented to the Society by Mayor William Lefew of Harvard has also disappeared.

NEW OFFICERS

Certainly not minor business was the election of officers at the June meeting. Dorothy McEachren will continue as acting president for the time being, but wishes to be free to do some traveling; Nancy Fike was re-elected vice-president; Nancy Petzelt was elected second vice-president; Ruth Cripe decided she would continue in her position for the present; Don Hildebrand accepted the position of recording secretary; and Leta Clark was re-elected membership chairman.

You can see that board meetings are busy times.

CORRECTION

From things done, we go to things to do. One of these, for your Tracer editor is a correction, sent to us by Myrtle Shaw, formerly of Union and now of Albany, New York. Her letter is so interesting, we will share most of it with you after thanking her for the kind things she had to say about the Tracer. Rensselaerville and Rensellaer are not two names for the same place. Rensselaerville is a small attractive village about 27 miles S. W. of Albany in the Helderbergs (foothills of the Catskill mts.) Renselaer is a rather industrial city across the river from Albany. It took its name in 1897 after a merger of 3 small communities, E. Albany, Greenbush and Bath on Hudson. Both communities were once included in the Manor of Rensslaerwyck, the enormous holding of the Patroon, Stephen Van Rensselaer, Rensslaerville was started in 1787 by some veterans of the Revolutionary War. The Huyck mills (paper makers, felts and "Kenwood" blankets) started there using water power from the falls in Ten Mile Creek. Later they were moved to Rensselaer. That left the small village with no place of employment and it more or less went to sleep and there have been few changes there in the last 75 or a 100 years except for modernizing houses and water supplies, Rensslaerville was deeply involved in the anti-rent wars, where the farmers tried to break out of the feudalistic system of land ownership. I wondered if the Dietz family had a part in this but checking with your account (in the Spring Tracer), I find that they had already moved to Oneonta before the wars began."

Our thanks to Miss Shaw.

THINGS WE COULD USE AT THE MUSEUM

We continue this portion of the Tracer each quarter since. not only does it bring in items requested, but it jogs the minds of other people who have saved items for the Society but neglected to bring them to the museum or give them to board members to deliver for them.

From the desk of the president comes this interesting paragraph: "We have been given, literally, a shoe box, packed tightly with snapshot negatives, size 3 1/2 x 5 3/4" The donor, Mrs. Barbara A. Mackey Kaemer of Eden Prairie, Minn. is a daughter of Floyd James Mackey 1857 1951 and Clara Krum Mackey, 1890-1976 and granddaughter of Curtis Alfred Mackey 1856-1934 and Sophronia (Jenny) Jane Gilliland 1852-1921. Mrs. Kaemer thinks all the snapshots were taken in the Union-Marengo area but there is no identification of places or people. They date from 1932 to 1947. Would someone from the Union-Marengo area like to try to identify them? Or some photographer print a few--particularly the ones of buildings or houses?" The Society would be grateful.

When the "Have You Seen?" column was written, it brought to mind that the Museum has no examples of the old time rag doll, no cornhusk dolls, no wool dolls. Also we are desirous of adding a "Sparkle Plenty" doll to the collection. These are the dolls from the Dick Tracy comics which were so popular some twenty to thirty years ago.

Our next two requests necessitate people recalling old family stories. If your ancestors came to McHenry County in the early days of settlement how did they come from the east? At the museum a list is being compiled of those who came by the Great Lakes route, some even through the Erie canal. For instance, Anchrom Stevenson and his family came by way of the St. Lawrence river, then through the lakes, to Chicago, from whence he drove the team and wagon he had brought with him to Belvidere where he had friends, staying there until he took up land in this county, seven miles from Harvard. His grandson, Lansing Stevenson, still lives on the farm. There must be numerous others within this area. Will you let us know?

Another list being worked on is that of the names of county men who went to California in the "Gold Rush" days. Quite a few have been garnered from the 1885 history but that there are many more, we are well aware. Again we do need the help of the families of these people.

GOLD RUSH NAMES SO FAR ACQUIRED

Since 1965, our president, Dorothy McEachren, has been carrying on a correspondence with Mrs. Allen Mogg of Lake County, who started out to write a paper on her county's history and so far has written four booklets. Since Lake and McHenry were once one county, our histories are closely intertwined. Both ladies had much to offer the other. It is from their notes this partial list of "Gold Rushers" was arranged. There is no chronological order to the list, nor geographical, either. We publish it in the hope that if you have a family story of an ancestor having gone to California and his name is not listed, you will send it on to the museum. The names are followed by location and the dates of each person's trip, where they are available. Lewis Hatch, Burton township, 1850-54; Amos Dodge Whiting, 1850-60; Atreus R. McCollum, McHenry township, 1848; Russell Begun, Hebron, and bride, gone six years; Alexander Gardener, Richmond, 1850; Clarence Webster Colby, died on steamer before it reached New Orleans on return trip; Aaron Hoffman; Hawley Smith, D.S. Smith, left March 27, 1850; John W. Smith, Joshua Chase, Thos. Heath left with A.D. Whiting named above on April 18, 1850; B.N. McKinstry, - Kindler; Dr. H.T. Brown, Mark Hickox; Lewis Peatt, Greenwood, 1849; Jeremiah Quinlan, J.R. Sayler, Woodstock, 1850; John Benwell and George Converse; Alvin Judd, Isaiah Austin, Luke Belcher, Lew Kelly, Wm. Stowell, Bradford Burbank, Dr. Almon W. King, all of Woodstock left in one party in the spring of 1850; John J. Murphy of Woodstock; Lewis B. Peatt, Greenwood; a Dr. Mellendy; Jonathan Wells, Marengo, 1850-52; Alonzo Platt, 1850, died at Virginia City, Nevada 1862; Patrick E. Murphy, Hartland, 1851-1855; Walter Warner, 1850-1852; James and Henry Burgett, brothers and James Buckland, 1850-1854; J.S. Cummings, Huntley, 1852; Dr. D.C. Green, 1850, never returned, presumed slain on the way home.

KNOWLEDGE GAINED

Mrs. McEachren has furnished this article about another line of inquiry the Historical Society has been pursuing.

COUNTY ARTISTS

The McHenry County Historical Society has been conducting a quest for names and information concerning persons from this county who have gained recognition in their chosen field. Our Music Room at the Museum contains framed copies of sheet music composed in McHenry County. The question as to whether our area had ever produced any notable artists came up at a board meeting recently. As a result of a little detective work, it was discovered that McHenry was the birthplace of two women who were accomplished artists.

The first of these artists was Clara Belle Owen who was born in 1854 and lived in McHenry for many years. She studied art in Paris and became an excellent painter.

The second artist, Pauline Palmer (usually called Polly), was born in 1867, the daughter of Nicholas and Francisca Spangemacher Lenards. She was the wife of Albert E. Palmer. Polly studied in Paris and had paintings on exhibit there. In Chicago, she became famous as a portrait painter, especially of children, Some of her work is part of the permanent collection at the Art Institute. Mrs. Palmer was mentioned as a famous woman in Illinois in The Intelligencer, a monthly magazine published in Kankakee during our Sesquicentennial Year. She received a silver medal for a painting exhibited in Paris and a bronze medal at the St. Louis Exposition. In 1907, she won both the Young Fortnightly Prize at the Art Institute and the Marshall Field Award. Polly Palmer died in 1938.

The above information was secured through the courtesy of Mr. Harold Owen and his daughter, Pat Ahlberg, both of McHenry. Mr. Owen has two of Polly Palmer's paintings in his living room, and Mrs. Ahlberg is the proud possessor of still another of this artist's works.

If any of our readers possesses one of Polly Palmer's paintings and would like to donate it to the Museum the Historical Society would be most grateful.

Mrs. Ahlberg said that the McHenry Plaindealer carried a write-up about Mrs. Palmer in 1969.

ANOTHER COUNTY ARTIST

Harvard points with pride to an artist whose name appeared in Who's Who for over thirty years. His work is still shown at the Art Institute, the Field Museum, the Newberry Library and the Chicago Historical Society in Chicago, and the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C.. His name was Elbridge Ayer Burbank, and he was the son of A.J. and Anna Ayer Burbank. Born in September, 1859, he was educated first in the Harvard school, then in the Chicago Academy of Design before he studied under Paul Navin and Frederich Fehr in Munich, Bavaria. In 1893, he won the Yerkes first prize in Chicago; at the Atlanta Exposition in 1895, he won both a medal, and for another entry, an honorable mention; and in 1900, he was one of the "honored exhibitors" at what was then considered the foremost art exhibition in the whole world, the Paris Exposition.

He was considered one of the foremost portrait painters of the country and his Indian portraits are still treasured above those of any other painter. Although he did not live in Harvard at the time of his death in 1939 (this was in Oklahoma) there are people who remember him in his home town.

At present a Dr. John Kizer from California is writing his biography.

OUR ADVERTISERS. The Richmond Bank

When the State Bank of Richmond was organized with a capital of ten thousand dollars in 1890, all its officers were men. The founding brothers, George and John McConnell, were assisted in the organization by John W. Haythorn, and the first officers were George McConnell, president; John McConnell, vice-president; and John W. Haythorn, cashier. Thirty years later, when the bank, which had not had the "State" in its name until this time, was reorganized as a state bank, the officers had changed. Susan McConnell was the president; Cora H. Covell and May L. Parsons were vice-presidents; Frank B. McConnell was cashier; and William A. McConnell was the assistant cashier. More than the number of bank officers had grown, their resources and liabilities then being $399,280.76. The total assets now are well over five million dollars, and have been for more than ten years.

The founding McConnell brothers built their first bank building in the same block where the present building now stands. That first bank cost $5000 and was a fine building for its era. It was replaced forty-two years later and given a major remodeling in 1959.

Their president Floyd M. Foss, came to the Richmond bank from McHenry in 1933. Other officers have also been with the business a long time and the town feels their financial affairs are in trusted hands.

ROACH'S HARDWARE

This store which has been our first advertiser from Harvard is a hundred and sixteen years old and is still doing business in the same place it started. It is at present operated by a family whose ancestors were pioneers in the Harvard area, but this family did not start the store.

It was established in 1862 by Lewis Bower. It was later known as Bower and Company, and though it started on a small scale, was said to have forged steadily to the front. In 1867, they needed a clerk and hired C.E. Hunt. Five years later, he bought the store with N.B. Helm. later, he bought into the firm which became Hunt, Helm & Manley. In 1890, Mr. Helm left the firm, after which it was called Manley Bros. & Co., Thomas Manley being the brother who joined A.C., and the company for C.E. Hunt who retained a fourth interest in the store. In the next nine years, a number of other changes in ownership would change the name each time: Manley Bros. & Stone, then 3 Manley Bros. when E.B. joined A.C. and Thomas, and on New Year's Day, 1909, Manley Hardware Company, belonging to Aaron Rowe, his son-in-law, A.C. Manley, and the latter's son, E.A. Manley. The 1912 book on Harvard stated that it was one of the largest concerns of its kind in northern Illinois or southern Wisconsin. Besides regular "light and heavy" hardware", they also carried sporting goods, farm machinery, heating and plumbing, harnesses, engines, silos, Ramblers, Overland, E-M-F, Flanders and Brush automobiles. (A.C. was always proud of the fact that his automobile was the first car in the county.) In 1910, they would separate the two businesses, taking their automobile business to the corner of Brainard and Johnson.

Still later, there would be other owners, people who established themselves as Harvard citizens, and kept the store moving on. Hancock and Pence, with the name later changing to Hancock's when Jud Hancock owned it alone, then Vick Bros. and for the last ten years, it has been Roach's Hardware, with Dale and his son, Jim, almost always on hand. Mrs. Roach also works in the store, and just to prove how far back the family has lived in this area, Dale's grandmother was the first white child born in Chemung township.

These are contributions from our most faithful aids and we deeply appreciate their help!

WHAT DO THE DOCENTS DO?

The term "docent" is a new one for many, but it is simply a fancy word for "guide" - in this case at the Historical Museum. Let us drop back to June 9th. It is Friday and there are 90 Fifth Grade students from West School visiting the Museum. Half of the group are playing games outside while the other half have just finished listening to a brief orientation talk to acquaint them with the history of the Museum. The children have enjoyed guessing the purpose of a number of artifacts which were every day utensils in the homes of their ancestors. Now, divided into small groups assigned to one of the six docents on duty, the boys and girls are ready for their introduction to McHenry County history.

Let's follow each group and sample its learning experience. Alice Bailey from Hebron has led her group to the Music Room where the children are marveling over the scroll work clock which was carved by Fred Bergnan of Terra Cotta when only 17. This model of a European Cathedral with its intricate carving is considered one of the finest artifacts in the Museum. The students are intrigued by the 1910 Edison phonograph with its cyclindrical record and morning glory speaker.

A peek into the Costume Room shows Melodie Archer from Marengo pulling back the covers to show her group the rope bed which was brought by covered wagon and a a team of oxen from Johnson, Vermont in 1850.

The children led by Leta Clark are greeted at the door of the Professional Room by a manikin dressed in the World War I uniform worn by John McClure of Harvard, Illinois. They shudder when they see the old foot operated dental drill donated by Elmer Carlson of Woodstock.

In the Classroom, Frances Bailey is showing her group the old school desks from Landmark School, McHenry and telling how the boys used to dip the girls' hair into the ink wells. She calls attention to the double-hinged slate used by Elmer Ackman of Huntley when he went to the Butler School.

Downstairs, Maude Hill of Marengo has led her students to the stage where they are browsing among the huge old looms and the spinning wheels noticing especially the large spinning wheel brought to Woodstock by the Thomas Ryder Family when they came from Virginia in 1852.

Last to get started on the tour is Alice Clark who with her group stands before the showcase containing the Mayflower platter which was actually used at the first Thanksgiving feast shared by the Indians and Pilgrims. The children are interested to know that there is an "A" scratched on the back of the pewter platter, an A which stands for Abigail who was the wife of Elder Brewster. According to legend the platter was passed down from generation to generation each time to a daughter named Abigail.

After looking in on these groups, don't you agree that the Historical Museum is providing a worthwhile learning experience for the school children of McHenry County?

SUMMER VISITATIONS

Although the school year is over, the docents are still kept busy. On August 2nd the YMCA at Crystal Lake made arrangements to send a busload of 66 day camp children ranging in level from second to fourth grade. On August 3rd the "Y" sent the same number again - this time the fourth through eighth grade level.

A group of 30 to 40 Senior Citizens from Greendale, Wisconsin will visit the museum on August 30th. Isn't it something to have out-of-the-state guests? Of course, we have people from far and wide each Sunday - but this is the first large group from that distance. Actually the registration book shows we regularly have more people from out of the county than locally. This should not be true. Come on all you members! Remember your membership card gives you free admission.

During the past year, 463 students have visited the museum with classes ranging in age from a second grade from Johnsburg to a sophomore class from East Campus, McHenry. This service would not be possible if it were not for the faithful docents who give so generously of their time. Others who helped lead groups were Ida Howell and Amy Brink of Woodstock, Clara Vogel of Greenwood, and Dorothy Northrop of Union. The Bailey sisters travel 22 miles from Hebron and Clara Vogel about 17. Alice Clark, Chairman of the Docents, is grateful for the wonderful cooperation of these ladies. They have turned out in all kinds of weather even when the temperature dropped to eight degrees below zero.

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The contributions of other faithful docents will be highlighted in future issues of the Tracer.

S.O.S.

As the person responsible for staffing the museum on Sunday and Wednesdays, I desperately need more volunteers. Now that we are charging admission, it is necessary to have seven docents on duty on Sundays. On Wednesdays, the attendance is less, and it has been possible to manage with only five persons. There are four Sundays and five Wednesdays in August which necessitates a total of 53 docents to staff the museum for this month alone!! Thirteen directors of the Historical Society have signed up to work on different dates, but that leaves an overwhelming number for me to secure by telephone. This takes a great deal of time and necessitates many calls because many people are vacationing and cannot be reached.

Staffing the museum is a very great responsibility. Won't you share it with me?

With 608 adult members in the Historical Society, plus 42 organizations there should be many more persons willing to serve. If you can spare an afternoon or two a month, won't you please call 338-1634 and volunteer? I'll be very grateful!

Alice M. Clark
Chairman of Volunteers

ARE YOUR DUES PAID FOR 1978-79?

Our new year started June 1st, 1978. This year a smaller percentage of members paid their dues on or before our annual meeting. With higher priced utilities, leaking roof, and damaged ceiling, it was necessary to raise our dues to cover maintenance costs. Dues for one individual are $5.00; family - $10.00; organizations - $15.00 or a donation; and business membership $25.00. A Life Membership of $200.00 would eliminate the necessity of remembering to send in annual dues.

We endeavor to keep our membership files up-to-date. Please help us by paying your dues promptly. Remember, your membership card gives you free admission to our Historical Museum.

Leta Clark
Membership chairman

McHENRY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEW MEMBERS - MAY & JUNE 1978

Mr. & Mrs. Gerome Gudauskas & Family
4111 West Crestwood
McHenry, 60050

Mr. & Ms. Terry Hansen
Rte. 1, Box 58-B
Huntley, Ill. 60142

Mary Little
4409 Greenwood Rd.
Woodstock 60098

Mrs. Donald Schacht
4415 Lathrop
Woodstock 60098

Florence Stage
4410 Lathrop Dr.
Woodstock 60098

Roger McLean Family
4515 Lathrop Dr.
Woodstock 60098

Van Vogel
4329 E. Lake Shore
Wonder Lake 60097

Above five names, although they have Woodstock addresses are Greenwood area residents.

Mrs. Lois Bowdish
19419 Rt. 173
Harvard 60033

Mrs. Alice Bowdish
Orchard Rd.
Harvard 60033

Mrs. Joan Bowdish
1005 6th St.
Harvard, Ill.

MORE NEW MEMBERS

Janet Kingsley - Harvard
Don Peasely - Woodstock
Rev. & Mrs. James Segin - Woodstock (Greenwood)
M?M Kichael P. Bigalke - Marengo
M/M Kenneth Raddatz - Union
M/M Gary A. Salman & Family - McHenry
Mary Walker - Woodstock
Mrs. Walter Vogt - Geneva
Mary Krause - Marengo

We also would like to restore the Richard Kynell family to their own habitat. Although they have a Harvard address, they are Alden area residents. We misplaced them in the Spring Tracer.

OBITURARIES

The death of Ben G. Phelps was a loss to the entire Kishwaukee District of scouting, an area where he was known as"Mr. Scoutmaster". Although he was born in Kentucky in 1904 and had worked for the Electric Ad Clock Company for 52 years, it was after he came to Woodstock twenty-three years ago that he found his true avocation with the Boy Scouts. In the fifteen years preceding his coming to Woodstock, he had been an assistant scoutmaster and scoutmaster. He would continue as district vice chairman, neighborhood commissioner and district chairman of senior scouting. In Woodstock he served as district commissioner and member at large to the Blackhawk Area Council. He received the Silver Beaver Award for outstanding service to scouting, community, and country. He was a member of the Order of the Arrow; other awards he earned were the Scouter's award, Scouter's Key, Commissioner's Knot and the Arrowhead Honor. A fine citizen.

The report of the death of Vera G. Knopp, last living in Naples, Florida was received too late for the Spring Tracer. Although she had never been a resident of our county, she was for more than thirty years, the head librarian at the Delos F. Diggins library in Harvard. She died April 22 at the age of 88.

Martha Hayden Lange died in Harvard in June, a little more than a month after the celebration of her ninetieth birthday. She had been a rural school teacher, beginning in 1907 and continuing until her marriage. She was known in Harvard for her continued interest in the world around her and had kept scrapbooks of things of interest in the Harvard area for forty or more years. She also had a keen memory for the stories her family, who were Alden Township pioneers had told. One was about two bands of Indians who had had a small, private war on the Hayden property. The Haydens had watched the battle, probably with some trepidation, but it had never involved any white people. Her stories and interesting conversation will be missed.

The death of another old-time Harvardite is noted in the passing of Marjorie Richardson Carlisle. She was the daughter of Webber Richardson, son of Samuel Richardson, who with his brother first opened the Richarson Pharmacy in 1864. Sam Richardson died in 1906 after buying out his brother some years before. Webb Richardson took his daughter into the store with him. When all the professional women in the state could have been counted on your fingers and there probably was not another in the county, she was a graduate pharmacist. She married William Carlisle in 1923. She continued to operate the pharmacy after her father's death until, after eighty years in the same family, she sold the business in 1944, but continued to live in the apartment over the store and substitute occasionally as pharmacist for the new owner. She had been in failing health for some years.

Anne M. Miller died in the Woodstock residence in July at the age of ninety-five. She had spent all of her life in the Spring Grove and McHenry areas. Think of the changes her life had witnessed. When she was a very small girl the disaffection between McHenry and "Gagetown" afterward to be McHenry, also, although Gagetown had the railroad, had been but lately alleviated.

She was a member of St. Patrick's Catholic church and was probably baptized in the third church built by that organization which had been begun in 1840. The pastor who baptized her was almost certainly the Rev. P. M. O'-Neill, who had come to the parish in 1876 and was still there in 1885. She had seen all the changes since.

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Candlewick spreads get the name from mountain women using the same cotton cord that was used in making candle wicks.

WE HAVE A DOUBLE PAGE OF PICTURES IN THIS ISSUE AS WE HAVE SO MANY THAT ARE UNIDENTIFIED.

In this month when family reunions are so prevalent, look at this one and see if you can identify the family. They are thought to have been from Alden, Harvard or Hebron but no one knows for sure. Do you?

Are any of these your Grandmother? Probably the one farthest to the left was Mother or Aunt. If they were NO relation but you think you have a possible identification, please let us know.

Is this a family? Mother and children? Teacher and students? It is one of the pictures we get at the museum that would be so much more relevant to the county if we could name the people.

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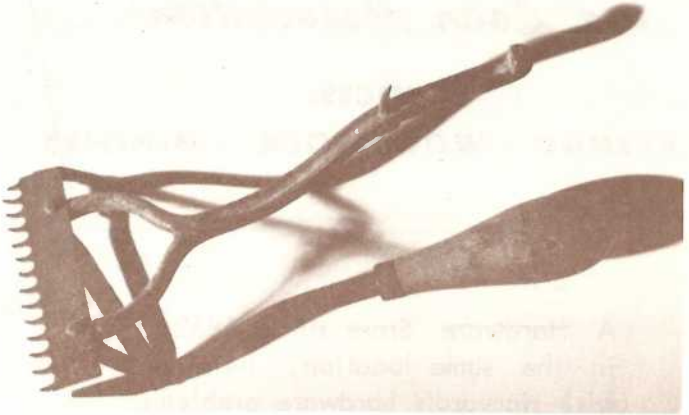
CAN YOU IDENTIFY THESE LADIES?

Can anyone identify this Harvard lady of long ago?



A WHAT'S IT

This tool? was found by a wrecking crew while tearing down an old home. It carries an 1872 patent date on it. We'd like some help from our readers on this one; so, if you can identify it, please drop us a note or give the museum a call.

McHenry County Historical Society
Box 434
Union, IL 60180
815-923-2267

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